

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, and 39 as follows.

1 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides; and
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides and having an outer circumferential body surface extending about a periphery of said body; and
- (c) ~~an~~ a non-flexible elevated wire interface, for conveying a weld wire, said elevated wire interface displaced radially outwardly from the outer circumferential body surface.

2 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, further comprising first and second elevated wire interfaces extending outwardly from, and along, at least a major circumferential portion of the outer circumferential body surface, and separated from each other.

3 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 1 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface is adjacent, but displaced from, at least one of the first and second sides.

4 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 2 wherein at least one of said elevated interfaces is adjacent, but displaced from, at least one of the first and second sides.

5 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said first and second elevated wire interfaces generally defining a channel therebetween, the channel optionally having a bottom corresponding with said outer circumferential body surface.

6 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface comprises first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a groove therebetween, and wherein a cross-section configuration of the groove corresponds in magnitude to a diameter of such weld wire for which said drive roll is designed and configured.

7 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 2 wherein at least one said elevated wire interface comprises first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a groove therebetween, and wherein a cross-section configuration of the groove corresponds to a diameter of such weld wire for which said drive roll is designed and configured.

8 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said elevated wire interface defining a wire interface diameter, the outer circumferential body surface defining a body diameter, and a magnitude of the wire interface diameter being greater than a magnitude of the body diameter.

9 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 1, further comprising at least one rim extending outwardly from ~~the base body surface~~ said outer circumferential body surface.

10 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 9 wherein said at least one rim defines a rim diameter having a magnitude greater than each of the magnitudes of body diameter and wire interface diameter.

11 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said at least one elevated wire interface comprising a circumferential groove extending inwardly from an outer-most portion of said elevated wire interface, to a lower-most portion of said elevated wire interface, the lower-most portion of said elevated wire interface being displaced outwardly, in said drive roll, from said outer circumferential body surface.

12 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 1, said at least one elevated wire interface comprising first and second elevated circumferential peaks, spaced laterally from each other, and a circumferential groove therebetween, and wherein the circumferential groove defines an arcuate cross-section.

13 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 11 wherein the circumferential groove defines a generally angular cross-section.

14(original). A drive roll as in Claim 9 wherein an outermost surface of said rim, from an axis of rotation of said drive roll, defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

15 (original). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 1.

16 (original). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim 15.

17 (canceled).

18 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides which define a width dimension therebetween; and
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides, said drive roll body having an outer circumferential body surface extending between said first and second sides, and
- (c) at least one rim extending radially outwardly from, and along at least a major circumferential portion of, the outer circumferential body surface, said at least one rim defining a ~~diameter which is greater than the remaining diameters measured along the width of~~

said drive roll which extends radially outwardly further from said drive roll body than the rest of said drive roll.

19 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 18, further comprising at least one elevated wire interface extending outwardly from, and along, at least a major circumferential portion of said outer circumferential body surface.

20 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19, said at least one rim and said at least one elevated wire interface being laterally separated from each other by a distance therebetween which includes at least a portion of said outer circumferential body surface.

21 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface extends outwardly from said outer circumferential body surface a first distance (D3) at a given locus on the periphery of the drive roll and wherein said at least one rim extends outwardly from said outer circumferential body surface a second distance (D4) at the given locus on the periphery of the drive roll, the magnitude of distance (D3) being less than the magnitude of distance (D4).

22 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 18 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface is spaced from both of the first and second sides.

23 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 21 wherein said at least one rim is at or proximate at least one of the first and second sides.

24 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 19 wherein said at least one elevated wire interface has a circumferential groove extending thereinto.

25 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 18 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

26 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 21 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

27 (original). A drive roll as in Claim 23 wherein the outermost surface of said rim defines a generally planar or arcuate profile.

28 (original). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 18.

29 (original). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim 28.

30 (canceled).

31 (currently amended). A drive roll adapted and configured to feed weld wire having a predetermined diameter, said drive roll comprising:

- (a) opposing first and second sides,
- (b) a drive roll body extending between the first and second sides which define a drive roll width dimension therebetween, said drive roll body having a generally circumferential outer surface, and
 - (i) a groove for conveying such weld wire having a predetermined diameter, said groove extending circumferentially about said drive roll and defining a first cross-sectional configuration;
 - (ii) a recess extending circumferentially about said drive roll, adjacent and generally parallel to said groove, said recess defining a second cross-sectional configuration which differs from said first cross-sectional configuration;
~~said groove and recess defining a distance therebetween, the magnitude of said distance being less than the magnitude of the weld wire diameter.~~
- (c) an elevated wire interface for conveying a weld wire, said elevated wire interface extending radially outwardly from a portion of the outer circumferential body surface, said elevated wire interface defining a width dimension which is less than the width dimension of said drive roll width dimension.

32 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 31 wherein said groove defines first and second lateral support walls on opposite sides thereof, said elevated wire interface has first and second lateral support walls converging toward each other.

33 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 32 32 wherein ~~one of said first and second lateral support walls intersects said groove, defining a peak therebetween~~ said elevated wire interface has a groove extending circumferentially thereinto.

34 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 32 33 wherein each of said first and second lateral support walls intersects said groove, defining first and second peaks, respectively, therebetween.

35 (previously presented). A wire feeder assembly adapted and configured to feed weld wire, said wire feeder assembly comprising a drive roll as in Claim 31.

36 (currently amended). A welding system comprising a wire feeder assembly as in Claim 31 35.

37 (canceled).

38 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 31, said drive roll comprising first and second ~~grooves~~ elevated wire interfaces for conveying weld wire, ~~said first and second grooves extending circumferentially about said drive roll and said first and second grooves laterally spaced from each other~~.

39 (currently amended). A drive roll as in Claim 31–38 wherein said groove defines a lowermost portion thereof which is proximate an axis of rotation of said drive roll, said groove lowermost portion being radially outwardly spaced from said circumferential outer surface first and second elevated wire interfaces are laterally spaced from, and separate and distinct from, each other.

40 (previously presented). A drive roll as in Claim 31, further comprising at least one rim extending radially outwardly from said circumferential outer surface.